

Housing Coordination Team (HCT) Agenda

November 7th, 2007 ~ 9:30 to 11:30 AM
301 S. Park Avenue, Old Federal Building
Commerce ~ Housing Division
Large Conference Room ~ #228

- Bruce Brensda:
 - HCT Future Strategy
- Sub Committee Formation (ideas for potential committees)
 - Coordinating project audits and inspections
 - Providing Technical Assistance to communities
 - Housing Locator ~ online service
 - Coordinating efforts to promote Housing Initiatives
 - Other
- Team Member Input
- Upcoming Events
 - Joint Application Workshops (Sidney-Nov 14, Red Lodge-Nov15, Polson Nov 28)
 - MEDA-Seeking Solutions Working Group(Nov 20 GF Interpretive Center)
 - MFEC-American Dream Under Siege ~ Foreclosure Workshops (Dec 3-5 in Billings, GF and Missoula)
 - Governor's Special Meeting of the HCT (Dec 10)
 - Application Deadlines
- Future Meetings:
 - 2008

See next page for notes from meeting.

The Housing Coordinating Team meeting began at 9:30. There were 22 members in attendance.

Bruce started the meeting with a welcome to those in attendance and a brief description of the background and history of the HCT. Bruce outlined his plan for moving forward with the HCT and proposed a set of subcommittees to focus on key areas of interest. He notified everyone of the proposed meeting with Governor Schweitzer in December and how the guidance received at that meeting may shape future priorities of the HCT.

Topics discussed:

- Housing continues to be a main issue during W2ASACT meetings
- MEDA is working on the housing issue because it is effecting the economy
- MEDA will hold a workshop in Great Falls on November 20 at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. Email Charlie Wright at chwright@montana.com to register. Go here for more details....
<http://www.medamembers.org/Seeking%20Solutions.pdf>
- The HCT has live web pages, with more to come. http://housing.mt.gov/HCT_main.asp There is a member list, meeting information and HCT purpose and goals, so far. Please send any comments, suggestions or corrections to pcope@mt.gov
- A subcommittee will be formed to address the issue of coordinating project audits and inspections.
- A subcommittee will be formed to focus on how to better deliver technical assistance to communities who are trying to solve housing issues.
- Up to now, technical assistance has been informal. There is a need to come up with a process, to create a central point for communities to request or access technical assistance, perhaps communities need access to grant-writing resources.
- Perhaps there is a need to address the loss of housing rehabilitation skills. There are many communities who do not have craftsmen capable of doing this work.
- There was a reminder that all the technical assistance in the world does no good without availability of funds.
- There was a suggestion that a committee also study the cost of ignoring the chronic homeless population
- Communities need to be taught how to find the clear picture of their housing needs and issues
- Perhaps we need a subcommittee to define exactly what affordable housing really is.
- A suggestion was made that the problem could be solved by educating the civic leaders.
- Within the subcommittee to coordinate state and federal efforts to promote Housing Initiatives, there will be a committee to study data collection strategies and how to ultimately use the data to educate various people about the housing issues in Montana
- We should inform each other of federal legislative issues that affect each of us and those who are able can lend their show of support
- There was suggestion of conducting a specific study in 2008 to prepare for the 2009 Montana legislative efforts
- It was agreed that Penny Cope would email everyone with subcommittee information and a request for volunteers for each.